

no slaughtering was going on; at such a time every precaution would be taken to avoid gratuitous offence; and this inspection took cognisance chiefly of matters that were upon the surface, such as clean walls and floors, in respect of which many premises were scrupulously well kept. There were two conditions, however, which were of great importance, namely, position and construction. An improper site or defective construction must render premises "faulty and, indeed, objectionable". A slaughter-house should be a detached building, with a fair surrounding air-space; nor near accumulations of foul-smelling refuse, and sufficiently distant from other buildings to preclude offensiveness. It should be airy, well-lighted, and open to the roof; the walls being formed of impervious materials so as to allow thorough cleaning with soap and water, and the flooring also should be impervious, and slope to the drain, which should be incapable of disturbance by rats or foul air, or for the purpose of passing blood and filth into the sewer; a catch-pit for blood should be provided, and an abundant high-pressure water-supply be always available. So far as the existing slaughter-houses from fulfilling these conditions, that their use may be described as usually an accident—a shed, a washhouse, a stable, or mews, being converted wholly or partially to the purposes of slaughtering. Amongst facts ascertained by actual inspection, Dr. Dudfield stated that many of the slaughter-houses could be approached only through the dwelling-house or shop, horses were sometimes stabled in them, and in other instances there was full connection with the stabling. Some of the premises had dwelling rooms in actual occupation above them. In two-fifths of the total number visited, the drainage was found to be out of order at the very time when, as a preliminary to the annual licensing, inspection must have been looked for; and in several cases light was obtained by opening the doors, so that the business was carried on in public. All these conditions were quite consistent with an appearance of cleanliness, such as would impress favourably an inexperienced observer, and yet it would have been unreasonable to require their amendment at the cost of a considerable outlay for the improvement of premises so soon to be closed by the operation of law.

The particular recommendations of the select committee, as to the future regulation of the trade, would, if the butchers readily acceded to them, lead to a large reduction in the number of private slaughter-houses. Regulation, however, if extended to the circumstances of position and construction, would make havoc with many existing premises (unless these should all be privileged, which yet could hardly be intended as regards those reported by the committee to be "faulty and objectionable"). The primary defect of the present system was the want of penalties for neglect for constant recurrence. The alternative system of public abattoirs had worked so well wherever introduced, that it could hardly fail of success in the metropolis. It was not desired nor desirable to establish one vast abattoir, but a sufficient number of such places of moderate size to meet the necessities of the trade and of the community while enabling the slaughter of diseased animals and the traffic in unsound meat to be effectually proscribed. Such a number of private slaughter-houses as 1,700 was absurdly in excess of every legitimate requirement. It was to be observed here, that only in connection with public establishments could constant and effectual inspection be carried out, good sanitary conditions ensured, and cruelty and the sale of bad meat be prevented. Under the present system, and having regard to the multifarious duties and limited strength of the sanitary staff of any district, the inspection of slaughter-houses was and must be nominal, and it could have little further effect than to keep them moderately clean. By the introduction of abattoirs, the butchers would, in the long run, be the greatest gainers, and meat be rather cheaper than enhanced in price, judging from the experience gained elsewhere. Support might be anticipated for such a measure from the 162 wholesale dealers who bought live stock and had them killed at public slaughter-houses, as well as from the butchers (1,063 in number) who carried on their trade without themselves slaughtering animals. No great difficulty, then, was foreseen in carrying out this beneficial reform, should Parliament resolve to do that which it was advised to do

by all persons of sanitary experience, and which its predecessor of thirty years ago deemed not unreasonable, though its shibboleth was not *sanitas sanitatum*.

#### THE CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.

THE fifth annual meeting of the Charity Organisation Society was held at the Hanover Square Rooms on Wednesday week—the Right Hon. W. E. Forster, M.P., in the Chair. Among the speakers were Mr. Sclater-Booth, President of the Local Government Board; Mr. Walter, M.P.; and Mr. Kay Shuttleworth, M.P. The following passage from the report, which bears upon the medical charities of the metropolis, will be read with interest. The Council say:

The medical charities, and especially the dispensaries and out-patient departments of hospitals, have again occupied much of their attention. Their Medical Committee, which consists partly of members of the medical profession and partly of laymen, and of which they are glad to say that Sir Rutherford Alcock has recently consented to be chairman, reported in 1871 that the establishment of provident dispensaries appeared to them the first step towards the reform of the abuses of out-patient relief. There is no doubt a considerable class which can ill afford to pay the ordinary fees when sickness, with its attendant expenses and possible diminution of income, is upon them; but there are few, if any, above pauperism who cannot subscribe from one penny to threepence per week, whilst in work, to provide themselves and their families with necessary attendance in sickness. Several free dispensaries have recently been converted into provident dispensaries, and there are now no fewer than seventeen of these in London. The next step is to induce the hospitals to take some sufficient means of ascertaining what the exact circumstances of the persons that attend their out-patient departments are, and whether many of them ought not to be referred to provident dispensaries.

Another recommendation contained in the first report of the Medical Committee was, that provident dispensaries should be affiliated to hospitals, so that members might be entitled to hospital treatment when they required it. The Council are glad to observe that a Committee of Medical Charities in Manchester have made this a part of a comprehensive and well arranged scheme, which they have lately published. It is proposed to divide Manchester into districts, each with its provident dispensary, and to entrust the dispensaries with the power of recommending persons to the hospitals. It is to be hoped that this important step in the organisation of charitable relief may be tried ere long in some part of London.

The Hospital Sunday Fund will, no doubt, promote the efficiency and improvement of medical charities. The Council noticed with satisfaction the strong expression of opinion in the Report of the Committee of Distribution in favour of placing dispensaries on a provident footing.

The principle which underlies the action of the Council with reference to provident dispensaries—viz., that more extensive and more lasting good is done by enabling persons to help themselves, than by giving them free relief, applies, of course, to many other charities.

If people could be induced to lay by small sums regularly whilst they are in work, they would not have to look to the charitable for assistance to the degree that many now do. But just as the existence of numerous free medical institutions makes it difficult to establish provident dispensaries, so the distribution of petty relief in food or money makes it more difficult than it would otherwise be to induce the recipients to use their opportunities. Meagre and ineffectual as this relief generally is, it excites expectation out of proportion to its amount; and the largest share of it, too, often falls to the most importunate people, independently of any other considerations.

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DR. H. GERVIS and Dr. G. ROPER have been elected Physicians to the Royal Maternity Charity.

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WE learn with great pleasure, on the best authority, as will the friends of King's College generally, that there is no truth in the rumour, to which we last week referred, that Sir William Fergusson is about to resign his post at King's College Hospital as one of the surgeons to that institution.

## AURAL SURGERY.

MR. HINTON, having resigned the active duties of his profession, has betaken himself to literary pursuits. He has been succeeded in his post of Aural Surgeon to Guy's Hospital by Dr. Laidlaw Purves, a gentleman of the highest competency.

## THE HOPE OF AN INDIGENT DEVIL.

THE *New York Record*, of February 16th, says:—The Prize Essay Committee, New York State Society, reported that the essay upon "Colles' Fracture" had been awarded the Merrit H. Cash Prize, and that the motto of the essayist was, "The hope of an indigent devil." Upon opening the envelope, there was found the name of Thomas K. Cruse, M.D., Member of the County Medical Societies of New York and Westchester.

## URN-SEPULTURE.

THE movement is rapidly growing towards the adoption of cremation as a mode of disposing of human remains more consonant with propriety, with the requirements of public health, and with well directed sentiment than burial. Bishops of the church, clergymen of all denominations, leading men of the professions in this country, are taking occasion to express their feeling in favour of a return to the practice of urn-sepulture. With the assistance of Mr. Siemens, F.R.S., Dr. Percy, F.R.S., and other competent authorities, Sir Henry Thompson has succeeded in demonstrating that the incineration of the body, after funeral rites, may be accomplished rapidly, completely, without any atmospheric pollution, and without any foreign admixture with the ash. It is unnecessary to repeat what he has well stated in his recent publications on the subject; but, as we have on several occasions of late years noted the grounds for preference of urn-sepulture over inhumation, as a more thoughtful and proper disposal of the body, and one entirely compatible and even conducive to the tender reverence for beloved remains, we read with satisfaction the recent wise comment of the Bishop of Manchester upon the thoughtless objection to urn-sepulture sometimes drawn from the doctrine of physical resurrection—which of course, and as he points out, does in no way really touch the question. We understand that a Cremation Society has been formed in this country, which proposes in the first instance to publish for signature a suitable declaration. Some considerable subscriptions have been contributed to assist in promoting the objects of the Society. The following is the agreed wording of the declaration.

"We, the undersigned, disapprove the present custom of burying the dead; and we desire to substitute some mode which shall rapidly resolve the body into its component elements by a process which cannot offend the living, and shall render the remains perfectly innocuous. Until some better method is devised, we desire to adopt that usually known as cremation."

Mr. W. Eassie, C.E., 1, Great Winchester Buildings, is the Secretary of the Society *pro tem.*, and to him signatures of the declaration may be addressed.

## THE CHILDREN OF THE POOR.

AN excellent lady, Miss Buckton, who has been usefully spending her time in giving useful and, as it has proved, acceptable information to her poorer sisters in Leeds on the subjects of hygiene of the physical care of the body, mentions in an interesting pamphlet in which she has given an account of her experience and mode of work, some startling facts which incidentally reached her about the way in which new-born infants are often treated among the poor. The custom is to press the child's head so that the bones may be brought together; castor-oil or sugar and butter is administered, the body is bound as tight as possible, and the breasts are squeezed when the baby is a girl, "to break the strings". "To dispel the ignorance which leads to these cruelties," says Miss Buckton, "I provided myself with a skull and an enlarged drawing of Madame Bodichon's cartoon, showing the organs in a natural and an unnatural position. Several of my audience collected round me to verify my statements by facts which had come under their own experience. I learnt also from a written answer to one of my printed questions, that water on the brain is attributed to the practice of washing

the heads of babies. The following is the curious account which was given. 'It is owing to the cruel and murderous treatment of the mothers and nurses washing their females heads; for nearly 9 out of 10 die from the water in head by washing their heads. The testimony of one of the best medical men, Dr. Fleming, males being a little stronger some escapes this butchering practice.' This, I found, is a very common belief, and, no doubt, accounts for a large number of the dirty and sore heads we continually see. In corroboration of this, another of my hearers writes: 'I have seen people myself try to comb'd off dirt and make it quite sore.' I met this statement the following week by giving a description of the wonderful way in which the brain is protected, and described the dreadful Russian hair-disease, which is caused by dirt. I explained that as the scalp is more closely provided with oil-glands than any other part of the body, soap as well as water should be used from the very first. I felt on this occasion, as on many others, the great advantages I derived from placing myself in friendly communication with my hearers. By this means my knowledge increased every week, so that, instead of keeping to my syllabus, I had continually to quit its order and to extend my course from eight to ten lectures."

## THE OVERWORK OF MILLINERS.

THE Early Closing Association have issued an appeal on behalf of that overworked and ill-cared-for class, the milliners' and dressmakers' female assistants, which we heartily support. They state:

"The Board regret that, notwithstanding the existence of the Workshops Regulation Act, first passed in 1867, and subsequently amended in 1870 and 1871, frequent complaints of grievous overwork and protracted and excessive toil appear from time to time in the public press. Still more frequently do distressing cases, in which severe physical suffering, permanent ill-health, and even death itself, have resulted from infractions of the spirit, if not of the actual letter, of the Act, reach the ears of Government Inspectors and others who are interested in regulating and reducing the hours of labour. It seems to be a question with some whether the amendments, granting certain exceptions, have not been made to a great extent an occasion for reviving the evils which necessitated the passing of the original Act. It will be in the recollection of many that, some years since, the melancholy details of the death, chiefly from overwork, of a young girl employed in a fashionable West End establishment, arrested general attention, and created for the time being a deep and lively sympathy with the class to which she belonged."

There is a great deal of difficulty in putting the protective laws in force. Mr. Baker, the Inspector of Factories and Workshops, reports:

"I have myself had so many letters and personal calls by milliners' girls who have been employed into the small hours of the morning, and on visitation have found the statements to be correct, that I could fain have endeavoured to stop the practice by prosecutions; but such was the fear of dismissal, that I have never yet found one daring to give evidence before the justices, in consequence of the certainty of being a marked character from that day forward, and out of employment as soon as it was convenient for her to be discharged. With my subinspectors, this vexed position has been common enough. Such cases are, therefore, seldom or ever taken, and are, therefore, not seen in our lists of prosecutions."

The remedy lies mainly and in the first instance with the ladies; and it is heartily to be hoped that they will more and more, and by every means in their power, discourage the overwork of those who are employed in their behalf. This they can do in great measure by allowing sufficient time for the completion of their orders, and by making proper inquiries on the subject.

## THE FELLOWS OF THE LONDON COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

ACCORDING to the list just issued by the College of Physicians, London, there are 276 Fellows, who may be thus classified:—Having a medical degree from Edinburgh, 66; from London, 61; from Cambridge, 50; from Oxford, 38; from St. Andrew's, 24; from other sources—Dublin, Glasgow, and Foreign Universities, or *none*—36. Since 1518, there have been 90 presidents, 15 of whom have had the honour of knighthood or baronetcy conferred upon them—*i.e.*, 7 being baronets and 8 knights. All the presidents had an Oxford or a Cambridge degree except 5, the university conferring the degree being unknown in 3 of these.

## RETIREMENT OF PROFESSOR HYRTL.

DR. HYRTL, the eminent Professor of Anatomy in the University of Vienna, delivered his final lecture on the 16th instant, and took leave of his class. In the afternoon, he met an assemblage of more than three thousand pupils and friends, who presented him with addresses and other expressions of esteem, which were feelingly acknowledged by him. During the day, more than fifty congratulatory telegrams were received from all parts of the world—Petersburg, Moscow, Paris, Philadelphia, London, New York, Constantinople, Berlin, Prague, Pesth, Cracow, and various other places in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, including Eisenstadt, Hyrtl's birthplace. The festivities of the occasion were prolonged to near midnight. On the following day, the Municipal Council of Vienna conferred the honorary citizenship on him.

## HARVEIAN SOCIETY OF LONDON.

RECENT numbers of the JOURNAL have contained reports of proceedings which have taken place in this Society in respect to the proposed expulsion of Mr. Harry Lobb, whose advertisements in the daily and other journals are of long-standing notoriety. The proposal not being carried, the President (Mr. James Lane) and several other officers and members resigned. A special meeting was summoned on the 19th instant to consider the position of the Society; and Mr. Lobb's resignation of the membership was then tendered. Upon this, it was proposed by Dr. Sieveking, seconded by Dr. James E. Pollock, and carried *nem. con.*: "That the gentlemen who had resigned should be requested to withdraw their resignations and to resume their official positions in the Society." It is reported that all the intending secessionists have since signified their intention of rejoining; so that the difficulty which threatened to break up the Society may now be considered to have passed away. It is announced that an endeavour will shortly be made to pass a stringent rule against undue advertising, in order to prevent the recurrence of any similar crisis.

## THE NEW DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND FUTURE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

THE medical officers of the army are fully justified in anticipating great benefits to arise from the administration of the new Director-General, Sir William Muir, if they may judge from past experience of his successful efforts in the public service. The zeal and ability with which he discharged the duties of a regimental surgeon throughout the whole period of the Crimean War were very favourably mentioned in a despatch by General Sir William Codrington. The remarkable sagacity with which he conducted the medical affairs of the army during the China War of 1860, and expedition to Peking, as principal medical officer of the British and Indian troops employed on that occasion, was forcibly brought to public notice in the House of Commons by the Secretary of State for War, Sidney Herbert, who stated that never before had a British force, at such a distance from the shores of England, been preserved in such perfect health. Subsequently, at the time of the *Trent* affair, at the end of the year 1862, when it became necessary to despatch over 7,000 men from this country to North America, and, in conjunction with the troops already in the country and hastily raised militia forces, to make the whole army ready for taking the field under the trying circumstances of a Canadian winter, Sir William Muir was selected to organise and direct the medical arrangements. Although happily at the last the contest was averted, it was acknowledged that, so far as the medical department was concerned, everything had been got into complete readiness; and the harmonious manner in which Sir William Muir had brought the army medical officers and civil practitioners to co-operate in this result and to join in discharging the duties of the hospitals suddenly formed throughout the country, was universally praised. But, perhaps, the position in which Sir William Muir's services were attended with most benefit to his own department and to the public, and to which we would call most attention as an earnest for future success in the same direction, was that of Chief of the Army Medical Department in India. We have had the opportunity of seeing a Minute

by the Government of India on the subject, which, though printed at the time only for official information, seems to deserve more extended publicity at the present time, when the whole body of army medical officers is interested in learning as much as possible of the probable character of the future administration of their department. The minute which follows speaks for itself; it is a tribute of which any public officer might well be proud.

*From Government of India, Military Department, Fort William, 11th March, 1872, to Dr. Muir, C.B., Inspector-General of Hospitals, Her Majesty's British Forces.*

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge your letter, No. 19, dated 15th February, 1872, informing the Government of India of your appointment to the Head of the Sanitary Branch of the British Army Medical Department.

2. The Government of India have frequently had occasion to express their sense of the value of the services you have rendered during the time you have held the position of Inspector-General of Hospitals, Her Majesty's British Forces in India; but the Governor-General in Council, in expressing his regret at your departure, desires to take this opportunity again to record His Excellency in Council's full appreciation of the judgment, zeal, and ability you have uniformly displayed in the performance of the responsible duties entrusted to you.

3. While acknowledging the important assistance the Government have derived from your experience and advice, the Governor-General in Council, I am to state, especially recognises your unflinching efforts to improve the working of your department, and the sanitary condition of the soldiers, not less by your practical suggestions to that end, than by your opposition to unnecessary expenditure, which, if allowed, must inevitably reduce the power of the Government to give effect to measures of real reform and improvement.

I have, etc.,  
(Signed) H. K. BURNES, Colonel,  
Secretary to the Government of India.

## EAST END CONFERENCE ON PROVIDENT DISPENSARIES.

A CONFERENCE was held at St. Philip's Schools, Whitechapel Road, on the 24th instant—Robert Wigram, Esq., in the chair—to consider the following propositions.

1. It is desirable that all classes of the community not absolutely destitute should pay, so far as they are able, for their medical treatment.

2. Hospitals are intended for serious and painful cases, especially for such as require prolonged clinical treatment; and the attempt which has been made of late years to render them available, through their outpatient departments, for meeting the entire medical wants of the working classes, has been productive of much evil.

3. The ordinary medical treatment of the working classes should be locally provided for by provident dispensaries, based upon the principle of mutual assurance, but supplemented, when necessary, by honorary subscriptions, provision being made for the visitation of the sick, whenever their cases require it, in their own homes, by the medical officers of their respective dispensaries.

4. As the conversion of the existing free dispensaries into provident dispensaries, and the establishment of new provident dispensaries whenever required, is an indispensable preliminary to the reform of the system of medical relief, the exertions of all persons interested in the question ought, in the first instance, to be directed to those objects.

We understand that the immediate object of the conference was to prepare the way for placing some of the East End free dispensaries on the provident footing. It is certainly very important that the dense population of working people who inhabit the east of London should have no lack of opportunities of being provident in the matter of medical relief.

## ACTION ON A LIFE-POLICY.

THERE was tried this week, before the Lord Chief Baron and a special jury, the case of *Watson v. the Imperial Union Assurance Company*. This was an action on a life-policy, to which the company pleaded misrepresentation and untrue answers to the usual inquiries as to the health of the insured. Mr. Day, Q.C., and Mr. Willis, were for the plaintiff; Mr. Serjeant Ballantine and Mr. Grantham were for the company. The policy for the sum of £1000 was effected in September 1871, by one Watson, of Wick Farm, Hove, described as a farmer, thirty-four years of age. He had to answer whether he had any one of the numerous diseases mentioned, to which he answered that "he was never

ill, except the measles"; and, in answer to another question, he stated that he was of temperate and regular habits. On August 1st, 1871, he was examined by Mr. John Cordy Burrows, now Sir John Cordy Burrows, who testified that, so far as he could judge, his state of health corresponded with these statements, and certified in favour of his life as a good one for insurance. Mr. Burrows, however, had not professionally attended him, except on the occasion of the insurance, and had never seen him before or since. But Mr. Watson was also asked the name of "his ordinary or occasional medical attendant", and he answered that he "had got none"; whereas, in fact, he had within a year consulted a medical man—only, it was said, for indigestion, although it was suggested that the medical man had observed something more serious; and, at all events, his name was not mentioned. In February 1873, Watson died of diseased liver and kidneys; and the case for the company was, that these diseases were the result of habitual intemperance. In support of this case, several medical men, who had actually attended him in 1870 before the policy, and in 1872 after the policy, testified to the presence of symptoms of disease caused by intemperance; and other evidence was given to show that he was of intemperate habits. Moreover, on a *post mortem* examination, the heart, liver, and kidneys were found to exhibit traces of disease caused by intemperance. On the other hand, evidence was given to show that the deceased was of temperate habits when the policy was effected; and Sir John Burrows was called in support of the case thus presented. The Lord Chief Baron, at the close of a long trial, which lasted all day, left to the jury whether or not the deceased, in August 1871, was of temperate habits, and whether he had improperly omitted to mention the medical man who had attended him within the twelve months prior to the policy. The jury found for the plaintiff, but the Lord Chief Baron stayed execution.

#### RADCLIFFE TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP.

THE following report has been addressed to the electors to the Radcliffe Travelling Fellowship, and was received on March 20th by the Lord High Chancellor, the Marquis of Salisbury, and the Bishop of London:

"My Lord Archbishop,—We have to report to your Grace and the Radcliffe Electors, that the candidates, considered as a body, are of unusual excellence. We recommend to the electors for appointment Mr. Samuel Hatch West, of Christ Church. With respect to two other candidates—Mr. Childs, of Merton College, and Mr. Moullin, Pembroke College—we consider that their work gives them claims but little inferior to those of Mr. West. Between these two gentlemen it would, perhaps, be difficult to decide whether of the two should be reckoned the second. We feel bound to say to you that, looking at the actual quality of the work done, we think it a grave misfortune that we have no power to recommend both these gentlemen for additional Fellowships, or for some mark of your approval. Moreover, we may not transgress the due bounds of our relation to you if we say that, viewing the actual merit of such persons, and the great advance which their work gives proof of in the scientific education of Oxford, we regret that there is no fund available whence some recognition could be given to persons who, as in this instance, have furnished proof of much industry, ability, and scientific attainment. We think that great good would accrue to the public if grants could, under proper regulations, be given to candidates in an examination of this character, who, although unsuccessful in gaining the first place, have, nevertheless, shown themselves to be men of eminent merit and promise.

"We have the honour to be, my Lord Archbishop, my Lords and Gentlemen, your obedient servants—Henry W. Acland, G. Rolleston, A. G. Vernon Harcourt, examiners for the Radcliffe Travelling Fellowship."

#### OPIUM.

FROM a governmental return recently issued, we glean a few interesting statistics illustrative of the rapid increase of late years in the exports of opium from this country. The exportation of opium from this country is a branch of trade of which we hear, as a rule, very little; and it is not frequently quoted in official returns and statistical compilations. However, this branch of our national commerce, comparatively insignificant though it may be as regards the extent of business transacted, has, like nearly every other branch, greatly progressed of late years, and has

been sufficiently prosperous. Beginning with the year 1840, we find that the exports of opium from the United Kingdom were in the aggregate 35,848 lbs.; in 1850, they were 87,457 lbs.; in 1860, they were 98,072 lbs.; and in 1870, they were 150,414 lbs. These figures embrace, as will be seen, a period of thirty years—a not unimportant period, so far as the exports of opium are concerned. Without any rapid or sudden fluctuation, these exports have gradually and steadily increased—an increase of 135,000 lbs. in the period of thirty years. The fact will not be uninteresting to the medical profession and to all who give heed to the peculiar developments of commercial enterprise. We may, however, consider this increase in the opium trade from the point of view of its actual sterling value. The figures are as follows. In 1856, the declared real value of the exports of opium from this country was £38,609; in 1861, £233,305; and in 1870, £196,165. It will thus be perceived that, in point of sterling value, the opium trade is growing considerably, and assuming more importance. It has been the fashion, especially amongst men essentially commercial, to regard this branch of business with feelings of indifference, as being of no importance to any one—as being, indeed, a stagnant sort of business, not worth the cultivation. There is no doubt that the period embraced by the statistics which we have just quoted—that is, the thirty years from 1840 to 1870—were of considerable importance to the opium trade, and witnessed a development of the exportation hitherto unprecedented. It remains to be seen how this section of our commerce will conduct itself in the future—whether it will continue to show progressive features, or whether it will be content to remain stagnant and insusceptible of increase.

## IRELAND.

THE salary of Dr. Smith, medical officer of the Ferbane Dispensary, Parsonstown Union, has been increased from £100 to £120 *per annum*.

AT a recent meeting of the guardians of Enniskillen Union, it was resolved that Dr. Rogers, late medical officer, should receive £80 *per annum* as a retiring allowance.

THE election petition against the return of Dr. O'Leary, of Dublin, for the representation of Drogheda, has been lodged, and among the grounds alleged are charges of bribery, treating, and undue influence, and other allegations to show that the election was illegally conducted. It is not expected that the Court to try the case will sit before the first day of the ensuing term.

DR. PARKES, Medical Officer of Kilmacow Dispensary District, co. Kilkenny, was last Sunday found dead, with a frightful wound in the head, which it is surmised was inflicted from violence; but, as the deceased gentleman had been out driving, it is uncertain whether his death arose from accident or not. An inquest will be held, when it is expected that evidence will be forthcoming which will throw more light on the transaction. Dr. Parkes leaves a wife and large family to mourn his untimely end.

#### THE CONJOINT EXAMINATION SCHEME FOR IRELAND.

OUR Dublin correspondent writes: The Conjoint Examination Scheme for Ireland is now the chief subject of professional interest in Dublin, and will, we believe, soon be the great medico-political question throughout the sister country. Last week we were only able to announce that a resolution condemning the scheme had been adopted by the Irish College of Surgeons at a meeting held just before we went to press on the 19th instant (misprinted the 12th in our last). As the English Conjoint Examination Scheme is all but complete, the reports from the Committee of Reference having been agreed to by the bodies most deeply interested, and the Apothecaries' Society being only excluded by legal difficulties, easily to be overcome by a formal Act of Parliament, it can scarcely be expected that Ireland will long remain behind in carrying

out a similar and necessary reform. It may be well here briefly to review the history and present state of the Conjoint Examination Scheme in Ireland. In accordance with the same recommendation from the General Medical Council as that under which the English Conjoint Examining Scheme has been constituted, the President and Council of the Irish College of Surgeons, on October 5th, 1871, invited the other Irish medical authorities to send representatives to meet the representatives of the College of Surgeons in conference, "to take into consideration the present mode of conducting the examinations imposed by these respective authorities". Representatives were accordingly sent by each of the Irish medical authorities, and a report was agreed to by the Conference on February 10th, 1872, recommending a conjoint examining scheme including *all* the Irish medical authorities. This report was forwarded to the various authorities, and, we believe, fully discussed by the executive authority in each, namely, the Board of Trinity College, the Senate of the Queen's University, the College of Physicians, the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, and the Court of Directors of the Apothecaries' Hall. The scheme thus proposed fell through, chiefly owing to objections raised by the College of Physicians. The Irish authorities having thus disagreed and brought forward no scheme for a conjoint examination, the General Medical Council, on March 4th, 1872, expressed its regret that no such scheme had been prepared, and hoped that the Irish authorities would be prepared with a scheme "by the 1st of July, 1872". Accordingly, the President of the College of Surgeons again summoned a conference, in which all the Irish medical authorities joined except the Queen's University. This University did not join in the Conference, but it does not appear that the executive body of the University was ever asked, as the Secretary writes, on April 17th, 1872, that "the *Chancellor*, after consulting *other members* of the Senate, does not think it advisable to appoint representatives of the Queen's University to attend another Conference" (the italics are our own). We do not profess to show who the "*other members*" of the Senate were, but it is quite manifest that the *Senate* never refused the invitation of the President of the College of Surgeons. The Conference met under this revived invitation, the Queen's University being alone unrepresented. Another scheme, differing but little from the last, was agreed to; this, again, met with opposition by the College of Physicians, but was agreed to by that College if the Apothecaries would consent to forego the privilege of examining at the final examination. This the Apothecaries refused to agree to; nevertheless, the scheme, as amended, was sent forward to, and approved of by, the General Medical Council, the Council expressing a hope that the Queen's University and the Apothecaries' Hall would join in the scheme. The Apothecaries' Hall gave its consent, but the Queen's University has not moved in the matter. The four consenting bodies agreed to go on, and appointed a Committee of Reference, which, after many months of laborious work, sent up a carefully compiled report to the co-operating authorities. In fact, all seemed to be going on well, when suddenly a fellow of the College of Surgeons called some of his friends together, held a private meeting (a "caucus," as our American cousins would call it), got a requisition signed, calling upon the President of the College to convene a meeting of the fellows "according to the provisions of the Supplemental Charter (clause 6), to take into consideration the proposed conjoint scheme of examination." The meeting was held, and as we informed our readers last week, the scheme was condemned. There were between fifty and sixty fellows present—not a large meeting upon such an important question. No copy of the scheme was forwarded to the fellows before the meeting. The most curious part of the whole proceeding is that this scheme now rejected by a hurriedly summoned and not numerous attended meeting, had been brought under the notice of the College in the annual report of the Council in June 1873, and that the College had adopted that report unanimously. The report contained a copy of a letter forwarded by order of the Council, to the President of the General Medical Council, enclosing the following resolution: "That the President and Council of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, beg

leave to impress upon the President and Members of the General Medical Council, their earnest desire that the scheme for a conjoint examination, forwarded to them by the University of Dublin, the King and Queen's College of Physicians, and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, should receive, at their earliest convenience, the sanction of the General Medical Council, as required by clause 19 of the Medical Act." This act of the Council was deliberately approved of by the College in June 1873; yet, in March 1874, with but a few days' notice to the country fellows, without ever giving the fellows an opportunity of studying a document which, in all good faith in their Council, the College had tacitly approved a year ago, the gentlemen who recently met set aside the well considered scheme, in the adoption of which their own Council and three other medical corporations had concurred.

## PUBLIC ANALYST FOR TIPPERARY.

DR. CAMERON, analyst for Dublin, writes to us as follows.

The remarks of your Dublin correspondent on the above subject might lead some of your readers to infer that I am a chemical Cheap John ready to work on the lowest possible terms. As I happen, on the contrary, to belong to that class of professional men who consider it unbecoming to accept fees lower than the recognised standard, perhaps you will permit me to dissipate any erroneous impression regarding me which your correspondent's remarks may have produced. I am public analyst for one-half of the County of Tipperary at a salary of £25 a year; and, at the suggestion of several grand jurors, I offered to act for the other half on the same terms, which would make the salary for the county £50 a year. As there are no towns of even 7,000 inhabitants in the county, and no proper organisation for carrying into effect the provisions of the Acts relating to adulteration in the county, £50 a year is a salary quite commensurate with the duties likely to be performed. I am analyst for the Queen's County, at a salary of £50 a year, and, during the last half-year, only some half-dozen analyses have been made by me for that county. Some counties for which I am public analyst have not sent me a single article for examination. I think, under these circumstances, it would be preposterous to expect the grand juries of Irish counties to give large salaries to public analysts until by some new arrangements—for example, the employment of the constabulary in the carrying out of the provisions of the Adulteration Act—the analysts are likely to have more work to perform. Even in England, the salaries of public analysts are by no means large; Liverpool, with its concentrated population of half a million, pays its able analyst £100. Some counties, I understand, give no salaries at all, but pay by results which generally may be expressed by the word *nil*. If I have not said too much on this subject, perhaps, I shall trouble you again with some observations on the defects of the Anti-Adulteration Acts of 1860 and 1872.

We shall be happy to receive Dr. Cameron's observations on the subject.

## THE WEBB FUND.

THE following contributions have been received by Mr. Augustus Churchill, the Treasurer, to the 26th instant.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Rev. J. Russell Stock...	3	3	0	A Friend of the Family.	2	2	0
Dr. Wheatley, Oporto..	5	0	0	Dr. Willoughby Arding.	0	10	6
Mr. C. Bleack .....	2	2	0	Dr. Cockle .....	3	3	0
Mr. Onley Savill-Onley.	1	1	0	Rev. F. Hildyard .....	5	5	0
Mr. George Meek .....	2	0	0	Dr. A. S. Taylor .....	3	0	0
Dr. Cahill .....	2	2	0	Dr. Andrew Clark .....	10	10	0
Captain Poland, R.N....	2	2	0	Mr. John Ferard .....	2	2	0
Mr. C. C. Ferard .....	10	0	0	Mr. W. H. Cochran ...	5	5	0
Mr. R. C. Griffith .....	5	0	0	Dr. J. Russell .....	2	2	0
Dr. Beddoe .....	1	1	0	R. L. F. ....	100	0	0
Dr. Dyce Duckworth...	1	1	0	Mrs. Holmes .....	100	0	0
Messrs. Yarde and Son.	5	5	0	Mr. O. C. Jackson .....	26	5	0
Dr. D. Fraser .....	2	2	0	Dr. E. T. Watkins.....	1	1	0
Dr. Murchison .....	4	4	0				
Sir H. J. S. Ibbetson, Bt.	10	0	0				
Mr. W. H. Domville ...	1	1	0	Amount previously ac-			
Dr. Clifford Allbutt ...	1	1	0	knowledged .....	1478	14	0
Messrs. Spalding and							
Hodge .....	10	0	0	Total .....	1808	14	6

ERRATA.—In the list of subscriptions for February 14th, for Dr. Jeffson, read Dr. Jephson; and for Mr. E. H. Bradley, read Rev. R. H. A. Bradley.